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At mihi plando
Ipse domi, simul ac nummos contempior in aca.

—Hor., Sat. I, i. 66.

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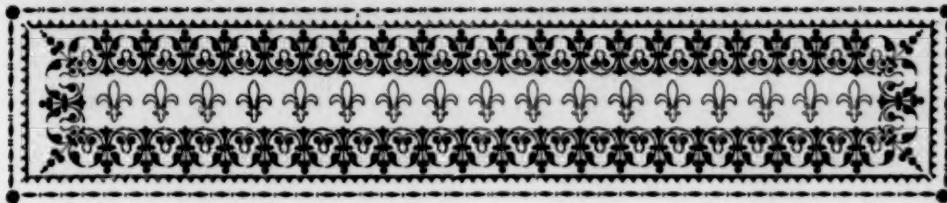
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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS.

At mihi plavdo
Ipse domi, simvi ac nvmmos contemplor in arca.
—*Horatii, Sat. I, i. 66.*

VOL. XLI.

BOSTON, APRIL, 1907.

No. 4.

ALLUSIONS TO THE ARGONAUTS ON SPANISH-AMERICAN MEDALS.



OME incidents of the ancient myth which relates the adventurous voyage of the ship Argo, bearing Jason and his companions to Colchis, in their expedition to win the Golden Fleece, and their long sail homeward after their design had been accomplished, found a modern parallel in some degree in the days of Queen Elizabeth, when Sir Francis Drake sailed away from the shores of England on his memorable expedition to the Pacific ocean. Like Jason, he had but a single ship,¹ manned with a crew of only eighty sailors, with which to traverse unknown seas. It was in the middle of December, 1577, that he began his perilous voyage, and it lacked but a few weeks of three years later when, on the 28th of September, 1580, he dropped anchor in Plymouth harbor. The conquests of Cortez and Pizarro had added the wealth of the American Indies to the possessions of the Spanish crown, and poured the silver of Mexico and the gold of Peru in an unfailing stream into the treasury of Spain, from the days of Ferdinand to those of Philip II. But as time rolled by, the Papal decree which had bestowed the dominion of the new world on the Catholic King had become the scorn of English sea-

¹ There were five ships in the fleet when it left England, but only one that, under the command of Drake, reached the Spanish-American possessions on the western coast of South America. In the *Numismatic Chronicle*, Part I, 1906, Sir John Evans, the President of the Royal Numismatic Society (England), has an interesting paper on the medal first to be mentioned.

men, and the annual voyages of the galleons from Lima to Cadiz had only served to excite the cupidity of the freebooters.

Crossing the Atlantic, Drake passed through the Straits of Magellan, and turning northward swept the unprotected coasts of Chili and Peru, loading his vessel with the wealth of their cities, and the precious gems which he stripped from the altars of their churches. Then, with the treasure he had gathered, amounting to more than half a million sterling, he turned eastward, steering his course for the Molucca Islands; thence crossing the Indian ocean, he rounded the Cape of Good Hope, and once more turning northward, landed at last on the shores of his native land, having completed the first circumnavigation of the globe. It was in commemoration of the romantic daring of his great achievement that one of the earliest medals having reference to America was struck.

The obverse shows a map of the Western hemisphere, on which his course is delineated, and on the continents are inscribed the names of the various countries of the new world. On the northern portion appears *America, meta incognita inuenta ab Anglis 1576.* ("America, the goal previously unknown, found by the English in 1576.") The allusion here was to the voyage of Martin Frobisher, who in that year had sailed along the northern shores as far as Labrador, in the hope of finding the northwest passage to the shores of the Orient.¹ The earlier discoveries of the Northmen in those regions had long been forgotten, and this was the first direct defiance of the Spanish claim to be sole masters of the Western world, though for some years previous the returning ships of Spain had been plundered in her own waters by the "sea-dogs" of England, actuated by religious hatred quite as much perhaps as by the "*auri sacra fames*," the holy hunger for gold, and fighting under letters of marque issued by the Protestant enemies of the Spanish king.

The localities mentioned upon the medal are arranged with only approximate correctness. They include not only New France, Virginia, Florida, Cuba, Mexico, and several of the islands of the West Indies, but Brazil and "Caribana," on the eastern coast, and "Patagonis," Lima, Peru, Chili and Panama on the Pacific side of the continent. The legend is: D. F. DRA. EXITUS ANNO 1577. ID. DEC^{re} and completing the circle, REDITUS ANNO 1580. 4. CAL. OCT. (On the Ides of December, *i. e.* Dec. 13, 1577, Sir Francis Drake

¹ It may be interesting to note, in connection with the words *Meta Incognita* on this medal, that its reference to the North and Northwest regions is shown by the very rare contemporary volumes describing Frobisher's voyages. He was one of the first who sought to find the northwest passage to the Pacific ocean. A copy of Churhyard's "A Praye and Reporte of Maister Martyn Forboisher's Voyage to Meta Incognita, 1578," has lately brought £1,000 at a sale by Sotheby, in London. Ellis's "A True Report of the Third and Last Voyage into Meta Incognita, atchieved

by the Worthy Captaine M. Martine Frobisher," 1578, describing his third voyage into the same region, brought at the same sale £920. It is said that these precious books, — especially valuable as being the first editions in English of Frobisher's voyages, are the most notable items of the kind offered at auction for half a century. Of Churhyard's account of his first voyage only two other copies are extant, both of which are in the British Museum, while the volume by Ellis is probably unique, and certainly one of the rarest of the early narratives of the exploits of the famous sailor.

departed ; on the 4th day before the Calends of October, *i. e.* Sept. 28, in the year 1580, he returned.)

On the reverse is a map of the Eastern hemisphere, and the course taken, when homeward bound, is indicated by a dotted line similar to that on the obverse, and the word *REDITUS* (Return). The Cape of Good Hope has its Latin name—*Bona Spes*. The editors of "Medallic Illustrations" remark that this medal is rare ; an impression is one of the treasures of the British Museum, and a somewhat more minute description is given under No. 83, of the Medals of Queen Elizabeth's reign, in the volume cited. It was curiously executed in silver, and resembles an engraved medal. Its size is 42 by the American scale. We find no mention of the piece as contained in any American cabinet.

While the expedition of the Argonauts is not alluded to on the piece above described, the similarity of Drake's exploits to those of Jason and his companions seems to have suggested itself to other medallists as a theme for designs commemorative of the conquests of their naval commanders. We find an example on a Dutch medal issued in 1599 in honor of the victories won by Admiral Van der Does, who in that year captured the city of Pavoasan (now called Charlotte Amalie) on the Island of St. Thomas,—thus carrying out the plans of Maurice, Prince of Orange,—and who had also taken a number of the treasure-ships returning to Spain. The obverse displays the ship of the Greek heroes, but upon its swelling sail is inscribed the tetragrammaton, in acknowledgment of the overruling Power which had given them the victory. On the waves beneath the ship the letters s. c. indicate the authority by which the piece was struck. Legend, EN · ALTERA · QVAE · ALTERA · VEHAT · ARGO ·—a quotation from the Fourth Eclogue of Virgil, line 34. (Behold the glories which another Argo carries.) The reverse shows two of the old Roman "Termini,"—the deities who preside over the boundaries of nations,—standing among cities and islands (Thiel and Bommel), and between them is the tetragrammaton again, as if to show that a boundary had been set by the Almighty power to the further conquest by the Spanish in the Western world. The legend is SIC · NESCLIA · CEDERE · FATA · CID IC IC (Thus the fates, who know not how to submit, have decreed. 1599.) This is a small jeton of silver, and Van Loon (I: 519) gives a full account of the Dutch expedition and its results.

The golden fleece appears on another medal which Betts thinks may relate to America, but which Van Loon supposes was struck by France, whose king had seized certain Spanish possessions in Holland. Betts bases his attribution on the allusion to America in the title of Philip, on the obverse. The design shows a draped female figure, typical of Spain, placing a crown on the head of Philip, who stands facing her, holding a globe in his right hand and a sceptre in his left ; in the background are two pillars with a crown upon

their capitals, the Spanish arms between them, and the motto **PLUS ULTRA** below. Legend, **PHIL. V. HISP. ET IND. R. ANDEGAV. D.** (Philip V, King of Spain and the Indies, and Duke of Anjou.) In exergue is the date 1720, in Roman numerals. On the reverse are several trees, typifying the garden of the Hesperides, on which their famous golden apples are growing, and from the branches of one of which hangs the golden fleece; their guardian dragon with expanded wings watches these treasures from a rock which is washed by the waves. Legend, **VIGILANS ELUDIT HIANTEM.** (Watching, he baffles the hungry robber.)

This piece was struck in silver, and is size 30 by the American scale. Van Loon (IV: 326) gives the reasons for his assignment, but whether they be accepted or not, the obverse legend as well as the reverse device seems to justify Betts in finding a significant reference to America in both, and allusion to the avarice of the enemies of Spain.

In the various versions of the story of the golden fleece, it is usually said to have been suspended from an oak tree in a grove which was dedicated to Ares, the god of war, in Colchis, on the Euxine or Black Sea, and protected by a dragon breathing out flames of fire against all intruders. In the execution of this medal, however, the artist has evidently confused the myth of the dragon-guarded golden fleece with that of the golden apples in the similarly protected gardens of the Hesperides at the opposite side of the world; for whatever may be the fruits which are growing on the tree depicted on the medals, they certainly are not *acorns*, and might well be called apples. But no one expects to find accurate geographic statements interwoven with the fanciful myths of Greek antiquity.

The myth of the voyage of the Argonauts to the distant East, and that of the gardens of the Hesperides with their golden apples, guarded by the dragon Ladon, which the Greek traditions placed beyond the lost Atlantis, in the farthest West, are curiously mingled on still another medal struck in 1702, during the reign of Queen Anne. One of the most arduous of the twelve labors of Hercules was to obtain from those famous gardens the fruits which the fable tells us Hera had received among her nuptial gifts when she was wedded to Zeus. The task was the more difficult as he knew not where to search for them, though he finally accomplished it. On the medal last to be mentioned, Sir George Rooke, the commander of the English fleet, is typified as Hercules. He was ordered to intercept the Spanish fleet on its homeward voyage, with its galleons laden with the treasures of the modern gardens of the Western sea. Like the demigod, he was uncertain where to find them, but finally decided to look for them in Vigo Bay. The medal shows him stepping from the sea and planting his feet on the neck of the Spanish dragon, symbolic of the Spanish power if we prefer to find an allusion to the Hesperides in the device, or of Aetes, who typifies Louis XIV, if

the designer had the Argonauts in mind, as seems to be indicated by the golden fleece, which a French soldier is endeavoring to carry away, but is prevented by the British officer. Louis, like the Colchian king, had hoped to protect the treasure, which he greatly needed to aid in carrying on the war of the Spanish succession, brought on by his scheme to place his grandson Philip on the throne of Spain. For this he had gathered a strong fleet, but the allied forces of France and Spain were destroyed in the battle fought in Vigo Bay October 12, 1702,—a port made famous more than a century before by Sir Francis Drake, in one of his cruises to “singe the Spaniard’s beard.” The victory of Rooke was a crushing blow to the naval power of France, from which it did not recover for many years. The legend on this medal is *NON DOLO NEC ARTE SED APERTO MARTE* (Not by craft or stratagem but by open warfare.) In the exergue is the date *MDCCII*. The obverse has a portrait bust of Queen Anne, to left; she wears no crown, but a “love-lock” falls on her right shoulder. Near the lower edge is the name of the engraver, *I. BOSKAM . F.* in small letters, curving to the edge. Legend, *ANNA . D . G . MAG . BR . FR . ET . HIB . REGINA .* (Anna, by the grace of God Queen of Great Britain, France and Ireland.) The medal is of silver; size 28. A further account of the affair commemorated by this medal may be found in Van Loon, IV: 363, “Medallic Illustrations,” Anne, 21, and a description of the piece is given in Betts, No. 99.

While we have not certainly ascertained the name of the engraver of the reverse die of the medal last described, it is probable that it was cut by Jan Boskam, of Nymwegen, one of the old “free, imperial towns” of the Netherlands. He made a number of medals for William of Orange (the husband of Queen Mary of England), while residing in Amsterdam, where he passed most of his life. Our conjecture seems to be justified by the fact that his initials appear on a die relating to the “Liberty” of his native city, which is somewhat symbolic in character, and is muled with the reverse of the medal last described.

There are perhaps a dozen medals relating to the naval battle in Vigo Bay, but the purpose of this paper—the allusions to “Argonauts” on medals relating to America—does not include them in this discussion. In closing it may be interesting to note that the epithet of “The Argonauts” was applied to the gold-hunters who sought the Pacific coast in 1849.

THE Metropolitan Museum of New York has received lately from Mr. Emile Fuchs the eminent medallist, of Austrian birth but now a resident of England, two interesting examples of his work. One of these is his medal commemorative of the coronation of King Edward and Queen Alexandra, struck in 1901, and the other is that known as the South African Peace Medal, dedicated “To the memory of those who gave their lives for King and Country, South African Campaign, 1899-1902.” Both impressions are in bronze.

PISTRUCCI AND HIS WORK.

A very valuable catalogue of die-cutters and engravers has for some time been in preparation by M. L. Forrer, and several parts have already been published; about half the proposed work is now in the hands of collectors. Its completion will be a valuable contribution to numismatic knowledge. We have already referred to the admirable papers, by this careful student, on the famous Greek designers and engravers, whose initials appear on the master-pieces of Greek art; examples of the work of many of these artists were shown by photogravures in the *Revue Belge de Numismatique*, in a series of articles printed in that excellent magazine,¹ which attracted special attention at the time. To the collectors of English coins of the last century a *brochure* by the same writer on "Benedetto Pistrucci, Italian Medallist and Gem Engraver, 1784-1855," will have more than ordinary interest.

Pistrucci was born in Rome, May 29, 1784, and early gave evidence of a love of art, and a marked ability in engraving gems. He studied at Rome under different masters, but soon left them to establish himself in an independent business of his own. He remained in that city until 1814, making friends among the highest classes not only in Rome but in various other Italian cities, and finding a profitable sale for the gems and cameos which he engraved. Early in 1814 he went to Paris, intending to make his home in that city; but in December of that year, in consequence of the approach of the allied armies who were warring against Napoleon, he went to London, and at once achieved success and found appreciative patrons. In 1817, in spite of opposition because of his foreign birth, he was made Chief Engraver of the Mint, and he it was who suggested the device of St. George, the patron saint of England, overcoming the dragon, which since that year has appeared on the gold coins of the British Empire. He held his office as Chief Engraver until 1828, and continued to be attached to the Mint until his retirement in 1849, six years before his death.

M. Forrer gives some curious examples of the methods employed by Pistrucci and a catalogue of the works of this distinguished artist. He also recalls an amusing incident which will interest the lovers of the choice examples of ancient art. It appears that Mr. Richard Payne Knight, a famous collector of that period, had purchased for one hundred pounds sterling a fragment of a head of Flora, which was claimed to have been the work of some skillful artist of antiquity, but which Pistrucci recognized as having been engraved by himself and which he had sold for five pounds sterling to a Roman dealer. It is added that the purchaser persisted in his belief that the gem was a genuine antique, and bequeathed it to the British Museum.

¹ These scholarly papers, since their appearance in the *Revue Belge*, have been published by J. Goemare, of Brussels, in an octavo volume of 381 pages, illus-

ARBITRARY DATES ON COINS.

THE date upon a coin is by no means an invariable method of determining the actual year of its mintage. Two European countries at least have an arbitrary way of placing on their money a "date of convenience." Every collector of European silver knows that the figures 1780 on the so-called Maria Theresa Thalers merely indicate that in that year those pieces, which have had so wide a circulation in Asia and Africa, were first struck by the Austrian mint, while the young buyer who has not been informed of this is perhaps congratulating himself on the possession of a piece in uncirculated condition, apparently a century and a quarter old, which may in fact have been coined only a few years ago. Since 1780 it is said that probably one hundred millions of these Thalers have been struck — all with that date.

The gold coins of Holland, having a value of ten florins each, which bear the portrait of Queen Wilhelmina, and on the reverse the date 1897, were also struck in the following years — 1898, 1899 and 1900, but without altering the date, and about 450,000 pieces were issued. A new portrait was engraved in 1901; yet instead of placing that year upon the pieces, they were dated 1898. The reason for this does not appear. The device has, with the portrait of the Queen, her name and the motto GOD ZY MET ONS. (God be with us.) The reverse device has the royal arms, value, the legend KONINGRYK DER NEDERLANDER, and the date as mentioned above. Since 1806 all the coins of the kingdom have been minted at Utrecht.

CHANGES IN THE BELGIAN COINAGE.

NEARLY twenty-five million nickel coins of Belgium, of the denominations of five, ten and twenty centimes of the old "Lion type," have been retired to give place to a new type. Coincident with the issue of the new nickel coinage, of which some twenty-two million pieces of five and ten centimes have been recoined, — three-fourths of each denomination having French and the other fourth Flemish inscriptions, — three hundred thousand pieces, in equal numbers of twenty, ten and five centimes, have been struck in copper-nickel for the Congo State. The obverse of each has a double L (one reversed) surmounted by a crown, and arranged to correspond with the points of a radiant mullet which appears on the reverse. The latter device may very properly be styled a mullet, as the centre has a circular hole, varying in diameter from three and a half millimeters on the smallest coin to four and one-half on the largest. The obverse legend, separated by a circle of pearls from the device, is LEOP. II R. D. BELGES SOUV. DE L'ETAT INDEP. DU CONGO (Leopold II, King of the Belgians and sovereign of the Independent State of Congo.) The reverse has the denomination above the star or mullet, the upper point of

the star dividing the figures from the letters; three small five-pointed stars on either side and the date below. The star indicates the arms of Congo. Size, 15. Weight of the five-centime piece, two and a half grammes. These are the first issues of a Congo coinage, of which one million francs in all are to be struck in copper, with at least one-quarter alloy of nickel. Probably larger denominations will be speedily issued.

AUSTRIAN AND ITALIAN MINT MARKS.

THE mint mark placed on the Austrian coins struck in Vienna from 1780 to 1872 was the letter A; since that date the custom of the United States in placing no letter on the issues of the principal mint has obtained; the Vienna coins are therefore as readily distinguished as are those of the other mints of the Empire. From 1780 to 1868 all coins struck at Kremnitz had the initial K; since that date the letters K B (for Körmöcz Banya) have been placed on the pieces struck for the kingdom of Hungary. Much of the gold and silver coinage used in Bulgaria was produced at this mint. From 1780 to 1857 the Prague mint mark was the letter C; Karlsbourg, from 1780 to 1868, used E; for a brief period, 1868-70, its mark was Gy F (Gyula Fehérvár). Halle, from 1780 to 1805, had an F; Nagy Banya, in Hungary, 1780-1852, G; D denotes Salzburg, from 1805 to 1809 inclusive; Gunsburg for the same period used H.

During the time that Austria held sway in the northern part of Italy, or from 1815 to 1859, coins struck in Milan had the initial of that city, and Venetian issues, 1815 to 1866, bore a V. In recent years most of the Austrian coinage has been executed at Vienna, and the money used in its Hungarian dominions, in Kremnitz. Since Italy became an independent kingdom M has been continued on the coins struck at Milan; T denotes Turin, R Rome, and N Naples. From 1862 to 1875 B N, interlaced, appears on the coins struck in the latter city; these letters are the initials of the Bank of Naples, which, during that period, had charge, under State authorities, of a large part of the coinage.

On the edge of certain Italian coins appear three love-knots with the letters F E R T three times repeated. Various explanations have been given, but that generally accepted is that they are the initials of the Latin motto *Fortitudo ejus Rhodum tenuit* (His valor held Rhodes), recalling the brave defence of the island by Amadeus, Count of Savoy, who in 1310 compelled the Turks to raise the siege of the city, then held by the Knights of the Hospital. Some writers, among them Guichenon, would interpret them as the initials of *Frappez, Entrez, Rompez Tout* (Knock, Enter, Break everything!) The reason for this assignment is not given by our authority.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON THE LAW MEDALS.

MR. BETTS has kindly furnished the Editors of the *Journal* with some additional Notes on the caricatures of John Law and his System, as a fitting close to the valuable monograph which he has contributed to its pages, and which was completed in our last number; to these the Editors add some account of the medals of the *Compagnie des Indes Occidentales*. These last-named pieces were more or less closely connected with the Mississippi Company founded by Law; but we cannot find that any attempt has ever been made to list them. Those we mention are merely individual pieces which have come to our notice from time to time. It is probable that a complete list would include quite a number which have not hitherto been recognized by American collectors. As has been elsewhere stated, some of the caricatures already referred to or described in the *Journal* appear to have suggested the devices on one or two of the medals, and the amusing additions to these which will be found below will, we are confident, be read with interest.—EDS.

The designers of the caricatures in "*Het Groote Tafereel der Dwasheid*," to which we have made occasional reference, found a very fruitful field for cultivation in the schemes of Law, and at every opportunity they turned everything belonging to him into subjects for their keenest ridicule. The strutting cocks upon his family arms were transformed into the chimerical cockatrice—a curious device used by heralds, of which the forepart is a gamecock, but the remainder of his body composed of the wings and arrow-pointed tail of a dragon; evidently the mythical character of the creature was thought to be a suitable symbol of the equally chimerical schemes of their promoter.

In "*Het Groote Tafereel*," the thirty-sixth caricature shows Folly placing a crown upon the head of Law, who is represented as seated and facing three-quarters to the right; in his left hand he holds a bag of money; his right is hidden behind a large kettle labeled BROUW KETEL which is kept boiling through the agency of numerous papers representing notes and shares of various bubble companies, which are being fed to the flames beneath. The kettle is represented as filled with coins from which the bystanders are helping themselves. The crown is emblematic, and constructed as follows: first, the rim, on the front of which appears the date, M · D · CCXX. In place of the "pearls" or balls which usually adorn the coronet of a marquess in English heraldry, we here have them replaced by the jingling hawk's bells so frequently seen on the points of the slashed doublets and the grotesque caps of court fools, alternating with nettle leaves and peacock's feathers. The bells symbolize also the noise and confusion, the *tralalarala* (see obverse of No. XII) attendant upon the inauguration of the System; the peacock's feathers are suggestive of the show and glitter of its palmy days, and the nettle leaves of the stings and injuries inflicted on its votaries at its final collapse. They take the place of the conventionalized strawberry leaves on the coronets of the higher ranks of the nobility.

Another caricature is too elaborate for careful description, for it includes much having no bearing on our subject from the numismatic point of view, and is moreover very gross in some of its details. That portion which chiefly interests us represents the belted "orb" surmounted by a cross, as borne by monarchs as a part of their regalia; portions of the surface are torn away, showing its interior, which is crowded by a struggling mass of grotesque humanity fighting for the coveted riches therein displayed; the struggle and revelry appear to represent fairly the System as a whole. Law is represented seated, in profile, to right; at his side is a sack of coins, open and the coins scattering; his right hand rests upon it; he is clad in a loose garment, his head replaced by a coin surrounded by rays, on which is his bust in armor, laureated and facing toward the right; the legend commencing at top, EEN LAW-SE PATECON . OF MISSISIPSE GELD GOD STUK- In his left hand, extended toward the right, he holds another smaller coin, which has for a device an orb in the centre of a triangle, the sides of which are broken by the semicircles of a trefoil. Legend, beginning on the left side, just above his hand: WEST ACTIE STUK GESLAGE INT JAAR 1720

The caricature is a very large one, and has a great number of figures quarreling and fighting; the humor is very coarse and full of obscenity; and as if this were not enough, there is a sacrilegious significance implied in the figure seated upon the orb, the emblem of the world, as if its sovereign; this is shown by the grey beard beneath the medal which serves as a substitute for the radiant head of the figure, and which is a familiar emblem of the First Person of the Trinity in ecclesiastical art. This, with the triangular figure on the coin having a similar allusion, was not improbably intended to express the popular contempt for the rulers of the Church who for their own ends were willing to accept Law's pretended conversion to the Roman obedience, in order that he might become Controller of the Finances. This scornful allusion to sacred things could have given no offence to the voluptuaries of the Regency.

MEDALS OF THE COMPANY OF THE WESTERN INDIES.

It was due to the sagacity and foresight of Cardinal Richelieu, who became First Minister of State under Louis XIII in 1629, that the French settlements in Canada were given that countenance and support which enabled France to hold for a century and a half, with almost undisputed sway, so large a portion of North America. For fifty years after Champlain had gained a foothold on the present site of Quebec there seems to have been no organized body of merchants in the mother country which had for its object the advancement of the interests of the Canadian settlers; the officials who were sent over to preserve the rights and privileges of the crown too often sought their own enrichment, and were entirely regardless of the prosperity of the

emigrants. The English had their "Merchant Adventurers," who operated in "Virginia," which extended southward along the Atlantic coast from the French possessions on the north to Florida, save a few points where intruders had gained a temporary foothold. But in France, whatever was done was under the direct control of the court.

It was not until 1664 that the *Compagnie des Indes Occidentales*, or West India Company of Merchants, came into existence under letters patent granted under the approval of Louis XIV. This Company was one of the projects of Jean Baptiste Colbert, one of the greatest of the Financial Ministers of the Bourbon dynasty. But notwithstanding the monopolies which he granted this and other similar companies organized to trade in the East Indies, in Senegal and Madagascar, and the fact that all of them were under government supervision and received more or less government aid, not one of them prospered, and most of them went to pieces within a few years. Canada gained more than any of the other French colonies, chiefly because she was let alone to a larger extent than they.¹

The *Compagnie des Indes Occidentales* was given the right to trade all over the French possessions in America, from the Amazon to the Orinoco, in Newfoundland and other northern islands, and in the vast domain called Canada, extending from the Great Lakes to the Gulf, and indefinitely into the unknown regions beyond the Mississippi to the "Western Ocean." It had but brief prosperity, and was suppressed by royal edict about 1674.

The *Compagnie des Indes Orientales*, founded about the same time as the West India Company, continued a longer but always precarious existence. It was often reduced to the verge of ruin, and as often remodeled and resuscitated by the Government. When Law turned his attention to his enterprises in Louisiana, he induced a wealthy financier named Crozat to surrender his monopoly of trade with that part of the French dominions which had been granted to him some years before, to a new company which was created by royal letters patent in August, 1717, and given the name of the "Company of the West." Two years later (May 26, 1719), another edict transferred the property and privileges of the Oriental Company to the Company of the West, and the Company of China was also united with the two. The name of the combined Companies was then changed to the Company of the Indies, but it continued to be known as the Mississippi Company, and in addition to the empire which it possessed in the Western world, it was given a monopoly of the commerce of France with the East. At the time of the consolidation of these various organizations the new Company had twenty-one ships carrying its flag. Law became one of its directors, and thus arises the *quasi* connection of the medals of the *Compagnie des Indes* with those of Law, which have been so fully described in Mr. Betts's papers.

¹ Perkins: "France Under the Regency."

The original Company chartered in 1664 adopted for its arms an ornamental escutcheon with a golden *fleur-de-lis* on a field of blue, surrounded by a wreath of palm and olive branches, and having for a motto FLOREBO QUO FERAR, signifying that the French lily would flourish wherever it was carried. The Companies which traced their origin to this original used, to a greater or less extent, portions of this device with additions. The new Company formed by combination adopted arms which symbolized the hopes of its future that were entertained by its projectors, retaining the old motto. Some of these emblems appear on the medals, as will be seen below.

Its subsequent history, after the ruin of the System, does not require attention in this connection. It is sufficient to say that the decline of the colonial empire of France during the reign of Louis XV involved the Company in the common ruin, and in 1769 it virtually ceased to exist. The story is told in full by Perkins, in "France Under the Regency," from which we have freely quoted in our account.

The first of the Company medals relating to the "Indies" of the Western hemisphere, and with probably only a single exception (the De Levi medal of 1658), the oldest French medal relating to America, was that struck in 1664. The obverse bears the bust of Louis XIV in profile to right, undraped. Beneath the truncation, J. MAVGER F. the name of the die-cutter, in very small letters. Legend, LUDOVICUS XIII REX CHRISTIANISSIMUS. (Louis XIV, Most Christian King.) Reverse, A figure of Mercury, standing; he holds the caduceus in his right hand and a purse of money in his left; in the background is a banner and a flaming altar, with bales of merchandise on the right; two ships sailing, on the left. Legend, JUGENDIS COMMERCIO GENTIBUS. In exergue, in three lines, SOCIETATES NEGOTIATORUM | IN UTRAMQUE INDIAM. M. DC. LXIV. (The Nations should be united by Commerce: The Societies of Merchants in each of the Indies, 1664.) In silver and bronze. Size 26.

The Catalogue of Medals of Louis the Great has on page 82 a similar piece, no example of which is now known to exist, nor are the dies in the French Mint. The obverse has a bust of the King similar to that on the preceding piece, and the legend is the same, save that for XIII the word MAGNUS is substituted. The metal is not mentioned; the size is given as 40, American scale.

No other medal having reference to the operations of French merchants in the New World appears to have been struck for fifty years or more; if any were coined, they have escaped the notice of our collectors. In 1715 one appeared which Betts thinks alludes to America. The obverse has a laureated bust of the young King, in profile to right, and without drapery; under the truncation the name of the artist DUVIVIER in very small letters. Legend, LUDOVICUS XV D G FR ET NAV REX. (Louis XV, by the grace of God King of France and Navarre.) Reverse, A ship under full sail moving to the left.

Legend, **TOTUS MIHI PERVIUS ORBIS** (The whole world is open to me.) In exergue, in three lines, **INSTITUTO MERCATORUM | COLLEGIO INSULIS | 1715.** (College or Society of Merchants with the Islands, founded 1715.) Copper; size 22. An impression of this rare medal is in the National Library Collection at Paris. The reference to the "Islands" is indefinite; and as the piece was issued two years before the Company of the West was chartered, it may be doubted if the medal has any place in the series under notice.

The Company of the West survived the downfall of the "System," and the next piece to be issued was in 1723. The obverse has two Indians supporting a shield surmounted by a crown and bearing the arms of the *Compagnie des Indes*. One of the Indians is seated; the other leans upon the top of the shield. In place of a motto there is a scroll below the shield, inscribed **COMP. DES INDES.** On the reverse is another shield having the field azure or blue, on which are three fleurs-de-lis, argent (white); above is a crown. Legend, **FLOREBO QUO FERAR** (I shall flourish wherever I am carried.) It will be noticed that these arms closely resemble those already described as used by the first Company of the West, but they have three lilies, while that had but one. The date is 1723. This is a small leaden piece, about size 12. Zay (page 271) describes this and others of a somewhat similar character, which seem to have been used as tags by the Company.

A more elaborate medal was struck by the Company in the same year, having on the obverse an armorial device; the principal charge is triangular in form, the point upwards, an "ordinary" not used in English heraldry; in this is a river-god seated, typical of the Mississippi; he leans on a cornucopia and holds a paddle erect in his right hand; the field is vert or green, and has a chief azure, strewn with golden lilies. Above is a crown; two Indians armed with bows stand beside it as supporters. There is no legend, but the name of the Company in full and the date 1723 appear in exergue. Reverse, A ship under sail to left, similar to that on the last piece but one described above, which may explain the reason for Betts's assignment. Legend, **SPEM AUGET OPESQUE PARAT** (It adds to, or increases, hope and promotes wealth.) Size 20. (See Betts 113 and Zay 272.)

In 1733 a medal was struck, having on the obverse the King's bust to right, in armor, draped. J. C. ROETTIER on the truncation. Legend, **LUDOVICUS XV. REX CHRISTIANISSIMUS.** Reverse, A cornucopia and caduceus crossed, below, the inscription in seven lines, **JUGENDIS | AMPLIORI ET FACILIORI | COMMERCIO GENTIBUS | EMPORIUM HOC | A FUNDAMENTIS EXSTRUXIT | SOCIETAS INDIA-RUM | GALLICA** In exergue, **MDCCXXXIII** (The French Society of the Indies built this market place from its foundations, that the nations may be united in a more complete and ready intercourse. 1733.) Size 32; struck in various metals. (See the Catalogue of Dies, Medals, etc., in the French Mint: Paris, 1833, page 167.)

The last one which we mention is that described by Betts (No. 384), struck in 1748, having for the obverse a shield with the later arms of the *Compagnie des Indes Occidentales*, the last survivor of the schemes of Law. The device is a palm tree on a golden field, with two Indians armed with clubs as supporters, and a crown above. Legend, PROTEGIT ET PASCIT (He guards and nourishes it.) In exergue, 1748. The reverse has an armorial device which Betts thinks may be the arms of the city of Nantes, within a circle of love-knots, and a legend of somewhat uncertain interpretation, which seems to refer to the administration of M. Bellabre as mayor of that city. It was struck in silver and copper, size 18, and is rare. It seems quite probable that this is a mule, and the true and proper reverse may yet remain to be discovered.

The Company of the West continued to exist in a modified form for a half century longer, and possibly more; but the later medals, if any were struck, can hardly be claimed to have any connection with the "System."

A NEW ROUMANIAN COINAGE.

DURING the last few months the Belgian Mint has struck for Roumania thirty-two million pieces of the value of five, ten and twenty bani, of similar types in nickel; two million, seven hundred thousand pieces of five lei and one leu in silver, and about one hundred thousand pieces in gold, of denominations varying from twelve and a half to one hundred lei. The gold and silver coins have reeded edges, and correspond in size and weight to pieces of equivalent value struck by the Latin Union. The larger silver and the gold coins of five, twenty and one hundred lei bear on one side the portrait of Charles I as he appeared when he assumed the throne, in profile, facing the left; he wears the military uniform of a general-in-chief, with numerous Order-crosses on his breast. Over the left shoulder in small letters A. MICH-AUX, the name of the die-cutter of the Belgian Mint. Legend, CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANEI and in the exergue the value. On the opposite side there is a portrait of the King, and the legend CAROL I REGE AL ROMANEI; in exergue, the dates 1866-1906.

The fifty-lei piece has upon the obverse a portrait of the King, facing, mounted, riding to the right and wearing a military cloak. Legend, CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANEI. 50 LEI. On the reverse is a portrait of the King similar to that above described, with the legend CAROL. I REGE ROMANEI. 1866-1906. Size, 40 mm. This is intended to displace the Austrian four-ducat pieces which are so frequently used for necklaces by Roumanian peasants.

The coins having values of twenty-five and twelve and a half lei display the younger portrait of the King, in uniform, as described; on the reverse is

the Roumanian eagle holding a cross in his beak, a sword in one talon and a sceptre in the other. Above, on a ribbon scroll, the motto PRIN STATONICIE LA ISBINDA. In exergue, the value. Sizes, 30 and 20 mm. These coins were struck on the fortieth anniversary of the King's accession. The production of these various Jubilee coins, of which, as will be seen, the reverse is quite as important as the obverse, on a planchet only three-quarters of a millimetre in thickness, entailed great difficulties, and required quite as much practical as artistic skill, so that while they necessarily lack to some extent the usual high relief, yet they have been so admirably executed that they have the appearance of a greater relief than they actually possess, yet without detracting from their artistic workmanship. M. Michaux accomplished the solution of this problem to the great satisfaction of the Roumanian King, who honored him with the Order of the Star of Roumania.

COLUMBUS ON THE SAN SALVADOR COINAGE.

THE troubles in Central America between the smaller States recall the fact that the Republic of San Salvador is one of the few, if not the only one, among our South American neighbors, which has placed a portrait of Columbus on its official coinage. As the piece seems to have escaped the notice of the *Journal*, a description may be of interest. The obverse has a clothed bust of the great discoverer in profile to left; he wears the "slouch hat" of the period, and his hair, long and flowing, falls upon his shoulders. Legend, above, CHRISTOBAL COLON and below, near the lower edge, AMERICA CENTRAL; under the bust, curving to conform to the lower line, UN PESO. Reverse: The arms of the State of San Salvador; a volcano rising from the shore of the ocean; above it is a semicircle of stars, and the sun is emerging on the left of the mountain. Crest, a radiated Liberty cap on an erect pole; two cornucopiae, their stems crossed, take the place of the conventional ribbon on which crests are usually placed. On each side of the shield are flags; that on the left has a union of stars on a crimson field and stripes of blue and white alternating, and that on the right has (in the arms, though the tinctures of course are not shown on the coin) a crimson field and a circle with the national arms, as described. The device on the last-mentioned flag is merely indicated. The armorial bearings are placed on two crossed palm branches. Legend, above, REPUBLICA DEL SALVADOR and below, completing the circle, 900 CAM. 1904.

From a report of the Belgian Mint it appears that 450,000 of these pieces were struck in Brussels for the Republic, each having a weight of 25 grammes and a fineness of .900. The cornucopia has long been a favorite device on Central American coins, especially those of New Granada, Ecuador and other States of Colombia.

A. T. C.

SOME UNNOTICED INDIAN MEDALS.

In a recent number of the *Revue Belge de Numismatique* our esteemed co-laborer M. Alphonse de Witte brings to the attention of American collectors the problem of identifying two medals presented to Indian chiefs in this country by Louis XIV, one of which dates from an earlier period (not of mintage but of presentation) than those described by Betts, or any other writer, so far as we have been able to discover. These are mentioned in a work entitled *Le livre des collectionneurs*, published in 1885 by M. Maze-Senzier, which gives a list of various medals offered as presents by the Kings of France from the year 1652 until the close of the reign of Louis XVI, and the names of their recipients.

This list is quite extensive, and is derived from official documents in the Archives of Foreign Affairs, hitherto unpublished; it contains notes upon numerous pieces of interest to collectors generally, but the work is almost unknown to numismatists. Two of those which he catalogues have particular reference to the American Indians. The first was a gold medal valued at 218 livres, presented "to the chief of the savages, à Benaquis [*sic*], (Canada), then at Paris," with a chain of gold. For "à Benaquis," etc., which from his spelling and punctuation the author seems to have understood to be the name of the chief, we should doubtless read "For the chief of the Abenaquis savages," etc., that being the name of a well-known tribe of Indians occupying territory claimed by the French crown. The date under which it is placed shows that the gift was probably made in June, 1706.

Under date of June 1, 1710, we find that there were sent to M. de Vaudreuil, Lieutenant in Canada, forty silver medals bearing portraits of the royal family, to be presented to the savages, and having a value of 574 livres. These not improbably were similar to, if not identical with, that described by Betts (No. 75), which bears on the obverse the bust of the King, and on the reverse, portraits of the Dauphin, of Louis, Duke of Burgundy, Philip, Duke of Anjou, and Charles, Duke of Berri. Legend, FELICITAS DOMUS AUGUSTAE. But the date on that medal is 1693, seventeen years previous. This medal was struck in silver and copper, size 48, American scale. There was a smaller medal, size 26, similar to the preceding (see Betts 76), having the busts differently arranged, and the date 1686, which was struck in silver. Impressions of both these medals have been found in Canada, as we learn from Betts and Le Roux, and this fact seems to confirm the conjecture that one or more of them may have been among the forty mentioned above. It seems to be well established that medals of these types were sent to the Canadian officials from time to time, for the purpose of cementing the friendship between the French and their Indian subjects, of which McLachlan gives several instances.

On the 16th of August of the same year, "a gold medal of the royal family," valued at 131 livres, was presented to "Sieur Barnieres," captain of a privateer, at Martinique; this also was very likely similar to those above mentioned, but there is not sufficient evidence to identify it with certainty.

The closing years of the seventeenth century and the opening decade of the eighteenth, more than any other period of his reign, were marked by that luxurious display in which Louis XIV so greatly delighted. He had then reached the height of his glory. Colbert had replenished his treasury and done much toward making France the great colonial power of Europe. The arrogant Louvois, who followed him as Minister, continued the same course of procedure in advancing the interests of the colonies, and as a part of his policy in sustaining the arms of France in the long wars of the reign, constantly labored to impress his rivals with a due appreciation of French influence abroad. It was in furtherance of this that he arranged for the famous visits of special embassies to the court of the "Grand Monarch," which should add new lustre to his crown. In 1685 the Muscovite ambassadors presented themselves with an oriental obsequiousness which greatly flattered the King and his nobles; and about the same time a party of so-called diplomats from Siam attracted great attention in Paris. The incompetent Chamillart carried on the colonial schemes of his predecessors, though with less ability; and while we find no reference to the visit of the barbarian chieftain and his warriors from the French possessions in Canada, which seems to have occurred while Torey was Minister, in the interval between the death of Chamillart and the advent of Law, and of which the record above of the gift of the Abenaquis medal is the only evidence that we have observed, there can be little doubt that their coming was planned with a similar motive to that which had actuated Louvois.

Not far from the time when the Abenaquis chief appeared in Paris, a party of Indians from Missouri, with the daughter of a chief of their tribe, was induced by a French officer to visit that city, where they were objects of great interest. The men hunted stags in the Bois de Boulogne and performed Indian dances at the Italian theatre. The girl was baptized at Notre Dame. Her conversion, says Perkins, to whom we are indebted for an account of the incident, was soon followed by her marriage to a French sergeant. The Indian warriors were made happy by blue coats adorned with gold lace and embroidered hats, and the King sent gifts to the bride; but after they returned to Missouri, of which the sergeant had been made commander, the princess wearied of her husband, and he and his associates were all murdered by the savages.

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Although Perkins, in his "France under the Regency," hints that the inspiration of the Eastern embassies came from the subjects of the King rather than from the wide extent of his fame, the policy which brought repre-

sentatives from the Western possessions of Louis to Paris and Versailles rested on a very different basis. The French officials in Canada had frequently decorated the leaders of their Indian allies with the glittering ornaments so dear to the savage heart, in the hope of increasing their loyalty to their distant ruler by a display of the portraits of the royal family on the breasts of his subjects on the banks of the St. Lawrence and the shores of the Great Lakes. By bringing some of their sachems to the capital, where they would be impressed with the wealth and magnificence of the King, it was hoped that the wondrous tales of what they had seen, which would be carried back to their homes, would not only strengthen the ties which bound Canada to France, but would also arouse new interest at home in the Franco-American colonies. The history of the relations between France and the Indian tribes, which continued to be friendly until the final overthrow of the French dominion in Canada, prove the policy of the French ministers to have been much wiser and more successful than that which was pursued by England and her colonies. We read of few experiences in Canada like those which led to the ceaseless strife that marked the first century of the settlers in New England. The well-known Franco-American jetons of Louis XV, 1751 and later, were the legitimate successors of the portrait medals of Louis XIV, though on somewhat different lines.

M.

THE SCARCITY OF PLATINUM.

SOON after the discovery of platinum in the mines of the Ural mountains (about 1822), the Russian Imperial Government found the precious metal accumulating in its treasury to so large an extent, that in 1827 it had become a serious question what disposition to make of it. Krankin, the Minister of Finance, proposed to use it for coinage, substituting it, to some extent, for the larger gold coins, for its intrinsic value was regarded as superior to that metal. While he had the matter under consideration he consulted the great German scientist, Alexander von Humboldt, asking his opinion of the expediency of the contemplated scheme. In reply, Humboldt expressed his doubts as to the wisdom of coining it, but approved an alternative suggestion of the minister that it might well be used for medals. Writing on the subject he said: "I am entirely of your opinion that the State must use its supply, in order to make memorial coins and medals of honor in place of the decorations now made of gold and silver. Perhaps your Excellency will propose in future that the crosses of the Orders which are so often given by his Majesty to native and foreign scientists and artists should be made of platinum. The use of this noble and purely Russian metal would easily dispose of the present supply, without causing either confusion or loss in the currency."

But this happy suggestion of the distinguished scientist did not commend itself to the minister, and the following year he began the endeavor to utilize the metal for coinage. In the course of the next eighteen years four and a quarter million roubles in value were struck in platinum; but the refractory character of the metal made it difficult for the mints to work it, except at large expense. The attempt to force it into circulation failed; the metal was little known, except to scientific men; it had never previously been used for coinage, and the pieces were reluctantly received by those who were expected to use them; its resemblance to the silver coins of the period also tended to make it unpopular, but most of all, the rapid depreciation in the intrinsic value of the metal as compared with gold,—there being at that time no demand for platinum in the arts, while the "precious metals" of gold and silver had been used for such purposes from the earliest times. In 1845 its coinage was discontinued, the value having fallen nearly one-half. Since that period most of the platinum coins have been absorbed by their conversion to mechanical purposes in chemical and electrical industries. The intrinsic value of the metal has within a few years rapidly appreciated, in consequence of the constantly increasing demand for such purposes, while the output—still chiefly confined to the mines in the Ural mountains—has made no corresponding expansion. The market price of platinum is now nearly twice that of gold, and as the industrial demand shows no falling off, seems likely to continue to increase.

Collectors who have examples of these precious coins in their cabinets can find a ready market for them at great advances over the prices they brought in auction rooms only a few years ago. A well-known Boston collector had the good fortune to pick up one of the smaller denominations in a broker's office not long ago, "as a nickel," for a nickel! No doubt his prize was worth a hundred times what it cost him.

W.

VISIT OF CHINESE OFFICIALS TO THE BELGIAN MINT.

A DEPUTATION of Chinese officials under the leadership of the Duke Tsai-Tche, visited the Belgian Mint, some months ago. The Celestials were received by M. LeGrelle, the Belgian Commissioner, and M. Allard, Director, and inspected the operations with much interest. Their visit led to the striking of a commemorative medal, bearing on the obverse the portrait of King Leopold, and on the reverse a "balancier" or coining engine, surrounded by the inscription L.L. E.E. SHEN KUNG-YI, PAOCHUN, TSEN GEN, ET OUANG HANG VISITENT LA MONNAIE DE BRUXELLES 28 MAI 1906. (Their Excellencies Shen Kung-yi, etc., visited the Mint at Brussels, May 28, 1906.)

THE MEDALS, JETONS, AND TOKENS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE.

BY DR. HORATIO R. STORER, NEWPORT, R. I.

(Continued from Vol. XLI, p. 74.)

The following is worthy of mention.

V. THE UNITED STATES. A. Personal.

Dr. David Hayes Agnew (1818-1892), of Philadelphia.

2459. *Obverse.* Within laurel wreath, based on diamonds, the staff of Aesculapius, obliquely to right. Above, at left: 38 Below, at right: 83 Inscription: Presented to | Dr. D. Hayes Agnew | by his Medical Friends | In commemoration of his | 50th year in the Profession | April 24th, 1883 (engraved).

Reverse. Blank.

The wreath and staff are gold, attached by chains to a bar, from which is suspended a capital A in diamonds. 40. 70mm. In the collection of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Communicated by Dr. John M. Swan of that city.

XI. SWEDEN (continued). D. Epidemics.

Small Pox. Inoculation.

2460. *Obverse.* Upon a band entwined with crossed oak branches, tied by ribbon and with rosette above: CATH — CHARLOTTE — RIBBING.¹ Within: OB | INFANTES | CIVIUM SUEC. | FELICI AUSU | SERVATOS Exergue: 1756.

Reverse. A serpent-entwined altar, with patera upon it. Legend: SUBLATO JURE NOCENDI. Exergue: VARIOLORUM.

Silver, bronze. 20. 30mm. Berch, p. 366, No. 190; P. and R., p. 136, No. 373, fig. of reverse; Pfeiffer, 1896, p. 1, No. 373; Hildebrand, p. 221, No. 2. In the Boston collection.

Do. Vaccination.

2461. *Obverse.* Nude bust, to right. Beneath: M FRUMERIE Inscription: CARL XIII SVERIGES G OCH V · KONUNG (King of Sweden, the Goths and Vandals.)

Reverse. Within crossed branches tied by ribbon: FOER | BEFRAEMJAD (for encouraging) | VACCINATION

Silver. 27. 39mm. Edges beaded. P. and R., p. 149, No. 434; Pfeiffer, *loc. cit.*, p. 8, No. 434; Hildebrand, II, p. 297, No. 38. In the Government and Boston collections.

2462. *Obverse.* Togated bust with curly hair, to right. FRUMERIE · Inscription: CARL XIV JOHAN | SVERIGES NORRIGES G · OCH V · KONUNG

Reverse. As preceding.

Silver. 26. 38mm. Edges milled. Pfeiffer, *loc. cit.*, p. 8, No. 435a; Hildebrand, II, p. 365, No. 80. In the Government and Boston collections.

2463. As preceding, save: BEFRAEMJAD

Silver. 25. 35mm. *Ibid.*, II. p. 366, No. 81.

2464. As the last but one, save L · P · L · on obverse.

Silver. 25. 35mm. P. and R., p. 149, No. 435; Pfeiffer, *loc. cit.*, p. 8, No. 435.

¹ The lady commemorated above was the Countess de Geer (1721-1787), the first of the Swedish nobility to permit inoculation in their families. There were two other medals of her (Hildebrand, pp. 193, 221), but as they do not refer to this subject I do not give them.

2465. *Obverse.* Head, to right. Beneath: L · P · L · F · Inscription: OSCAR SVERIGES NORR · GOETH · O · VEND · KONUNG ·

Reverse. As preceding.

Silver. 25. 35mm. P. and R., p. 149, No. 436; Pfeiffer, *loc. cit.*, p. 8, No. 436; Hildebrand, II, p. 426, No. 57.

2466. *Obverse.* Head, to right. Beneath: L · A · Inscription: CARL XV · SVERIGES NORR · GOTH · O · VEND · KONUNG ·

Reverse. As preceding.

Silver. 25. 35mm. P. and R., p. 149, No. 437; Pfeiffer, p. 8, No. 437.

2467. *Obverse.* Head, to right. Beneath: L · A · Inscription: OSCAR II SVERIGES NORR. GOETH. O. VEND. KONUNG.

Reverse. As preceding.

Silver. 25. 35mm. With loop. P. and R., p. 150, No. 438; Pfeiffer, p. 8, No. 438; Hildebrand, II, p. 525, No. 31. In the Boston collection.

F. 3. *Pharmacists.*

Oestersund.

2468. *Obverse.* Within field: E | Hjalmar | Wikander Inscription: APOTEK ET HJORTEN I OESTERSUND Exergue, a star.

Reverse. Blank.

Brass. 16. 24mm. Edges milled. In the Boston collection.

The following is pathological.

2469. *Obverse.* Within a circle, bust to left, in mouth tube. Inscription: MEDALJ FOR STARKA LUNGOR | . MUISTORAH A VAHVAIS A KEUNKOISTA . (The dots are quadrangular.)

Reverse. A dial face, with indices, and these divisions: $\frac{500}{2000}$ — $\frac{1000}{2500}$ — $\frac{1500}{3000}$ — $\frac{2000}{3500}$ — $\frac{2500}{4000}$ — $\frac{3000}{4500}$ — $\frac{3500}{5000}$ — $\frac{4000}{5500}$ — $\frac{4500}{6000}$ — $\frac{5000}{6500}$ — $\frac{5500}{7000}$ — $\frac{6000}{7500}$ — $\frac{6500}{8000}$ — $\frac{7000}{8500}$ — $\frac{7500}{9000}$ — $\frac{8000}{9500}$ — $\frac{8500}{10000}$ — $\frac{9000}{10500}$ — $\frac{9500}{11000}$ — $\frac{10000}{11500}$ — $\frac{10500}{12000}$ — $\frac{11000}{12500}$ — $\frac{11500}{13000}$ — $\frac{12000}{13500}$ — $\frac{12500}{14000}$ — $\frac{13000}{14500}$ — $\frac{13500}{15000}$ — $\frac{14000}{15500}$ — $\frac{14500}{16000}$ — $\frac{15000}{16500}$ — $\frac{15500}{17000}$ — $\frac{16000}{17500}$ — $\frac{16500}{18000}$ — $\frac{17000}{18500}$ — $\frac{17500}{19000}$ — $\frac{18000}{19500}$ — $\frac{18500}{20000}$ — $\frac{19000}{20500}$ — $\frac{19500}{21000}$ — $\frac{20000}{21500}$ — $\frac{20500}{22000}$ — 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Dr. Eduard Albert (1841-), of Vienna.

2473. *Obverse.* Bust, to right. Behind: EDVARDVS | ALBERT In front, at edge: A · SCHARFF

Reverse. (rosette) PROFESSORI | CHIRVRGIAE · CELEBERRIMO | PER · ANNOS · DECEM | IN | VNIVERSITATE · VINDOBONENSI | DOCENTI | VIRO · ET · DOCTRINA | ET · HVMANITATE | INSIGNI | MENTE · | MANVQUE | EXCELLENTI | DISCIPVLI | ET · ALVMNI | GRATISSIMI | PLETATIS · ERGO | DIE · II · MENSIS · MAI · MDCCCXCI

Silver, bronze. 38. 63mm. Edges beaded. Loehr, p. 24, pl. IX, No. 196. In the Government, Boston, University of Pa., and Avery collections.

2474. *Obverse.* As preceding, save that signature is on shoulder: A. Scharff 189- and on lower edge: A. R. (Alle Rechte) VORB(ehalten).¹

Reverse. Blank.

Bronze. 100. 160mm. In the Brettauer collection, now that of the University of Vienna.

2475. *Obverse.*

Reverse.

Bronze. Rectangular. 88. 140mm. By Scharff. *Ibid.*, p. 24, No. 196a.

Dr. Josef Georg Beer (1763-1821), of Vienna.

2476. *Obverse.* Bust, facing. Beneath: I. THEURING. F. Inscription: DR JOSEPH GEORG BEER.

Reverse. K. K. STADT-ARMEN | AUGENARZT UND OEF | FENTL. PROFESSOR DER | THEORETISCH UND PRAC | TISCHEN AUGENHEILKUN | DE ZU WIEN | GEBOREN ZU WIEN AM | 23 DEC. 1763 | GESTORBEN AM | II APR. 1821.

Tin. 23. 37mm. Die badly cracked. Duisburg, p. 146, CCCXCVI; *Ibid.*, Cat., p. 40, No. 486. In the Government and Brettauer collections.

2477. *Obverse.* As preceding.

Reverse. Blank.

Tin. 24. 38mm. In the Brettauer collection.

Dr. Franz Bene (1775-1858), of Buda Pest.

2478. *Obverse.* Head, to left. Upon neck: I. D. BOEHM F. Inscription: BENE FERENCS ORVOSTUDOR SZUEL. 1775. MEGN(ALT). 1858.

Reverse. Within wreath of medicinal plants: A | MAGYAR ORVOSOK | ES TERMESZ-ETVIZSGA | LOK GYULESE ALAPI | TOTANAK ES MESZTO | RANAK HALA EM | LEKUL | 1863 (The Convention of the Physicians and Naturalists of Hungary in grateful remembrance of its founder and Nestor.)

Silver, bronze. 25. 40mm. Kluyskens Cat., p. 104, No. 11; Duisburg, Suppl. II, p. 15, CCLb; *Ibid.*, Cat., p. 57, No. 658; *Wien. Num. Monatsheft*, I, 44. In the Government and Boston collections.

Dr. Moritz Benedikt (1855-), of Vienna.

2479. *Obverse.* Bust, to left. Beneath: E. JELTSCH FEC — E. STANIEK FEC Inscription, above: DR MORITZ BENEDIKT | PROFESSOR A. D. WIENER UNIVERSITÄT At right, perpendicularly: GEB. ZU EISENSTADT IN UNGARN 1835 Exergue: ZUR ERINNERUNG | AN SEINE 40. J. SCHRIFT STELLERISCHE | THÄTIGKEIT. 2. FEBRUAR. 1896.

Reverse. Blank.

Gilt, bronze. Rectangular. 27x38. 43 x 60mm. Chaufepié, Méd. et Plaq. modernes, p. 39, pl. XXXI, fig. 145. In the Government, Boston, and University of Pa. collections.

¹ The late Dr. Brettauer pointed out to me the similarity of this claim of copyright, to the C. P. C. (Cum Privilegio Caesaris) upon older medals. I wish again to acknowledge in the most emphatic way my constant obligations to Dr. B. for many years, for his suggestions and assistance, especially with regard to the Austrian medical medals.

Count Leopold von Berchtold (1759-1809), of Buchlau, Bohemia. Active against the plague.

2480. *Obverse.* Military bust, to left.

Reverse. Wreath of oak, and stars. DEM FREUND | DER HUMANITAET, | UND IHREM | OPFER

Silver. 26. 42mm. Donebauer, Boehmisches Münzen, No. 3269; *Ibid.*, Boehmisches Privat-Münzen, 5; Duisburg, p. 382.

Dr. Wenzel Beyer (1488-1526), of Karlsbad.

2481. *Obverse.* Bust, to left, with head bare. Inscription: WENCES BEYER MAEDI(CUS) NATIOE. BOEMVS AETATIS SVE 38 (rosette)

Reverse. In background, a smoking abyss into which Curtius, mounted, is springing. In front, a book upon which a skull; loose bones lying about. Legend: (rosette) IAM PORTVM INVENI SPES ET FORTVNA VALETE (rosette)

Silver, bronze, iron. Cast. 36. 56mm. Bayer, Tractatus de Thermis Caroli IV, 1614, fig.; De Carro, Carlsbad, ses eaux minérales, 1827, fig.; Bergmann, *loc. cit.*, I, pl. VIII, No. 32; Rudolphi, p. 19, No. 71; Kluyskens, I, p. 122; *Ibid.*, Cat., p. 84, No. 95; Duisburg, p. 93, CCLXIV, 1; *Ibid.*, Cat., p. 27, No. 330; Donebauer, No. 3274; Boehmisches Privat-Münzen, p. 14, pl. II, fig. 14. In the Government and Boston collections.

2482. *Obverse.* As preceding.

Reverse. Also, save 1526 just behind the horseman.

2483. *Obverse.* Bust facing and to left, with cap, and left hand on handle of sword. Inscription as in preceding.

Reverse. A bier, with skeleton. Above: (rosette) CVM PARITER | OMNIBVS MORIENDVM | NON TARDE SED CLARE | MORI OPTANDVM (rosette) Beneath: 1526 II D(ECEMBRIS).

Silver, bronze, iron. Cast. 32. 50mm. Beyer, *loc. cit.*, fig.; De Carro, *loc. cit.*; Bergmann, I, pl. VIII, No. 31; Rudolphi, p. 19, No. 72; Kluyskens, I, p. 122; *Ibid.*, Cat., p. 84, No. 95a; Duisburg, p. 93, CCCXIV, 2; *Ibid.*, Cat., p. 27, No. 331; Donebauer, No. 3273; Boehm. Pr.-Münzen, p. 14, pl. II, fig. 13. In the Government collection.¹

Dr. Theodor Billroth (1829-1894), of Vienna.

2484. *Obverse.* Head, to left. Upon neck: ST. SCHWARTZ Inscription: THEODORVS BILLROTH AETATIS SVAE LX | (rosette)

Reverse. Within laurel wreath bound above and below: MEDICO | ARTIFICI · VIRO | OPTIMO · PIETATE | CONIVNCTI | DISCIPVL ET SODALES | D · XXVI · APR · | MDCCCLXXXIX.

Gilt bronze. 40. 61mm. Loehr, p. 32, pl. XVIII, No. 14; Marx, Moderne Medaille, etc., pl. 22; Chaufepié, p. 60, pl. XLII, No. 217. In the Government and Boston collections.

2485. As preceding.

Bronze. 75. 120mm. Loehr, p. 32, No. 14^a.

2486. *Obverse.* Bust, facing and to left. Beneath: W. PITTLER. Inscription: THEODOR — BILLROTH

Reverse. Beneath a radiant star, a floating angel facing and holding band, upon which: ZUM ANDENKEN Beneath, chalice and drinking serpent with irradiated head, box of surgical instruments, and large palm branch. Below, at left: A. NEMECEK Inscription: GEB. ZU BERGEN 26. 4. 1829 — GEST. ABBAZIA 6. 2. 1894

Silver, bronze. 20. 32mm. Edge of reverse milled. *Mitth. des Clubs* (etc.) in Wien., March, 1894, p. 468, No. 501. In the Government, Boston, and University of Pa. collections.

¹ Both of the above were mortuary, and were struck Beyer's, who had been cured by a visit to Carlsbad. at the expense of Count von Schlick, a patient of Dr.

Dr. Fr. Anton Brendel (), of Vienna.

2487. *Obverse.* Nude bust, laureated, to right. Beneath: I · N · WIRT · F · Inscription: IOSEPHVS II · AVGVSTVS.

Reverse. BENE MERENTIBVS | DE ARTE MED · CHIRVRG · | PROEMIVM INSTITVIT · | FR · ANTON · BRENDEL · | CHIRVRG · MILIT · | MDCCCLXXXV ·

Silver, tin. 25. 40mm. Széchény, Cat. Numorum Hungariae, I, p. 440; Duisburg, p. 134, CCCLIX, 1. In the Government and Brettauer collections. Rubbings are in the Boston collection, from Dr. Brettauer of Trieste.

2488. *Obverse.* As preceding, save head more erect, curls more forward, and no dot after inscription.

Reverse. BENE MERENTIBVS | DE | ARTE MEDICO-CHIRVR- | GICA | PRAEMIVM

Silver. 26. 43mm. Széchény, *loc. cit.*; Duisburg, p. 134, CCCLIX, 2.¹ In the Brettauer collection.

See also under Medical Colleges, Vienna.

Dr. Josef Brettauer (1835-1905), of Trieste.

2489. *Obverse.* Spectacled bust, to right. At right edge, below: G. M. (Giuseppe Marin, of Trieste.)

Reverse. AL | GIVBILATO COLLEGA | GIVSEPPPE BRETTAVER | OCVLISTA | PER DOT-
TRINA E PRATICA | CELEBRATISSIMO | I MEDICO PRIMARI | DEGLI SPEDALI CIVICI DI
TRIESTE | CON AFFETTO PROFONDO | E AMMIRAZIONE ALTISSIMA | — | MCMIV

Gold, bronze. 36. 57mm. In the Boston collection, the gift of the late Dr. Brettauer.

Buch. See under Medical Societies, Vienna.

Cattho. See under Italy.

.Crato. See Kraftheim, under Germany.

Dr. Cornelius Chyzer (), of Hungary.

2490. *Obverse.* Bust, to right, the hands upon a book. H. KAUTSCH. Above, and to right: ETATIS. SUE. LXVII. Exergue: CORNELIUS CHYZER. MED. DR. COMMEMBR. ACADEMIAE SCIENTIARUM. HUNG. PROTOMEDICUS. REGNI. HUNG.

Reverse. A girl drinking from a cup given her by Hygieia with serpent. H. KAUTSCH. Exergue: IN MEMORIAM LUSTR. II. OFFICII | SVI MDCCXCIII — MDCCCCIII. GRATI | ANIMO DEDICANT. SOCII ET COLLEGAE.

Bronze, silvered. Curved. 20x37. 32x59mm. In the Government collection.

Count Dr. Leopold von Dittel (1815-), of Vienna.

2491. *Obverse.* Bust, to right. Upon shoulder: A. Scharff Inscription, behind: LEOPOLDO | EQ · DE | DITTEL In front: MED · DOCT · | PROFES ·

Reverse. Above, a serpent drinking and entwined about a chalice. To right, upright crossed branches of oak and laurel tied by ribbon, upon left extremity of which: AUXILIARE From the central loop hangs a notched shield upon which, above, a hand holding a scalpel, and below, an edelweiss. Inscription, to left: VIRO | ARTE INPRIMIS | CHIRVRGICA | DOCENDA EXERCENDA | PARITER INCLVTO | LXXX · ÆT · ANNVM | FELICITER | TRANSACTVM | GRATVLANTES | D · D · | COLLEGÆ | DISCIPVL AMICI | D · XV. MAI | MDCCXCIV ·

Silver, gold, bronze. 37. 58mm. Edges beaded. *Mitth. des Clubs (etc.) in Wien*, May, 1895, p. 56; Loehr, p. 25, pl. IX, No. 261; Schulman, Arnhem Cat., p. 97, No. 17; Chaufepié, p. 36, pl. XXIX, fig. 132, of obverse. In the Government, Boston, and Avery collections.

2492. As preceding.

Bronze. 82. 130mm. Loehr, p. 25, No. 261a.

¹ The above are prize medals of the Medico-Chirurgical Military Academy at Vienna, which were founded

NOTES AND QUERIES.

A HIEROGLYPHICAL MEDAL?

AT a recent meeting of the Boston Numismatic Society Mr. Horace L. Wheeler exhibited a medal of a somewhat mystical character, and well executed. The devices appear to be symbolical, but their significance is not apparent. Probably they have some local allusion, but whether to Tournai, Belgium (as suggested by the inscription), or Tours, France (as suggested by the *fleurs-de-lis*), is uncertain. There is a lofty tower of unknown date in the market-place of the former, and the famous towers of St. Martin and Charlemagne and those which form a part of the castle built by Henry II of England are conspicuous objects in the latter city. Should any of our readers be able to send us the interpretation of its meaning, we shall be glad to receive it.

Bronze medal $1\frac{3}{16}$ inch in diameter, the obverse bearing a castellated tower, resembling a chess rook, surrounded by a border containing at the top a small tower (similar to the main one) with a character on the left of it resembling T and on the right C with a bar above it like the bar of the T on the left. In the border to the left are three towers enclosed in circles. Corresponding to these on the right are three encircled *fleurs-de-lis*, and below are the letters T and S with a bar between them [T—S].

The reverse bears a cross springing from the angles of a rhomb and terminating in letters as follows: X, CC (combined), TE (combined), and H. All surrounded by a border bearing the inscription DE · Tournai and a ball (or circle) surmounted by a crown.

EDITORIAL.

THE JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS—REMINISCENT.

THE present number completes the Forty-first volume of the *Journal of Numismatics*; beginning with the next volume the control returns to the American Numismatic Society of New York (the present name of what until recently was known as the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society), which founded the publication in 1866. The desire has been expressed that some account of the origin and history of the magazine should be printed, inasmuch as few of the present subscribers know anything of its beginnings, and also for the information of those members of the Society whose organ it is to be hereafter. The history of the *Journal*, if it could be given in detail, would be a history of American numismatics: the prospective change in ownership seems therefore to justify some reminiscences of its origin, as a matter of record, and these its senior Editor, who has been connected with it since 1871, has been asked to give. While the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia appears to have been incorporated somewhat earlier than the American Numismatic Society, the latter claims, and we believe justly, to have been the first organized Society in the country devoted to the study of numismatics, its original members having subscribed to the By-laws April 6, 1858, almost fifty years ago; it has devoted more attention to coin-study than its sister body in Philadelphia, which has emphasized the antiquarian department rather than that of coins and medals, though by no means ignoring the latter.

It was at a meeting of the American Society held on the 8th of March, 1866, in the rooms of the "Society Library," University Place, New York City, that Mr. Joseph N. T. Levick, an enthusiastic collector, offered a Resolution that the "Society proceed to consider the practicability of publishing a monthly Journal of Numismatic and Archaeological intelligence, and that a special committee of five, to include the President, be appointed to take the matter into con-

sideration and report at the next regular meeting." It would be impossible now to determine whether the idea of the proposed magazine was suggested by a publication called "Norton's Literary Letter," conducted by Mr. Frank H. Norton, a few numbers of which,—four or five at most we are told—had appeared at intervals some years previous; the "Letter" contained an occasional article on numismatic subjects, but had long been discontinued when the proposal came before the Society for consideration. Mr. Levick, therefore, deserves the credit for the foundation of the first periodical devoted to the science in America.

Considerable discussion followed his suggestion, there being some doubt expressed as to the probability of adequate support for the proposed magazine, partly because of the limited membership of the Society, and partly because the field was as yet unexplored, though the desirability of such a journal was generally recognized. The Resolution was however adopted, and a committee was appointed, of which Mr. Levick was chairman, with Messrs. F. A. Wood (later and better known to collectors as Mr. Isaac F. Wood), Dr. George H. Perine, Vice-president, the Rev. William W. Seymour, and Mr. Norton, the President,¹ as his associates.

There were then two Numismatic Societies in New York, the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society (which for convenience we shall call the American Society in these notes), and the New York Numismatic Society, a few gentlemen holding membership in both. Shortly after the establishment of the *Journal* was proposed, the latter society voted to dissolve, turned its entire property over to the American Society, and a number of its members united with the latter, thus greatly strengthening it, for it was felt that the union thus accomplished would increase the interest in their favorite study. Until a few years previous—not more than ten, if we may accept the recollections of some of the older members—there had been no regular organization devoted to the study of coins and medals in the country. The publications of the American Antiquarian Society, having its headquarters in Worcester, Mass., the transactions of the various Historical Societies, the "Historical Magazine," and an occasional newspaper article, were the only sources to which those interested in coins and medals could turn for information.

At the Annual meeting of the American Society, held a fortnight later (March 22, 1866), the committee reported in favor of the project, and advised the appointment of a Publication Committee, and the "immediate prosecution of the enterprise." Their report was adopted, and Mr. Levick, Dr. Perine and the Treasurer, Mr. John Hanna, were appointed, with instructions to report a plan. April 12, following, the Committee submitted a plan, which was to issue a monthly periodical "of eight pages, large octavo, in double columns, at a subscription price of three dollars per annum . . . to be entitled 'American Journal of Numismatics and Bulletin of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society.'"

The magazine retained this somewhat cumbersome name for four years, or until its ownership passed to the Boston Numismatic Society, when the last word of the title was changed to "Societies." In 1897, the "American Archaeological Society" having been recently founded, and undertaken the publication of a magazine under its own name, the last half of the title of the *Journal* was dropped out of courtesy to that body.

The first number of the new *Journal* appeared in May, 1866. Considering the subscription price, it was somewhat disappointing in its mechanical workmanship, being printed on a thin newspaper stock; but its contents were of interest to its readers, containing as it did, reports of the Proceedings of three numismatic societies, and a paper by President Norton on "Numismatics and Archaeology considered as Aids to History." There was a slight improvement in the appearance of the next number, which had among other papers of value, a portion of the valedictory address of Dr. Winslow Lewis, retiring President of the Boston Numismatic Society,

¹ Mr. Norton was at that time the Librarian of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society in May, Brooklyn Mercantile Library, and had joined the Amer- 1858.

which was incorporated on March 25, 1870. In this number began a "Descriptive Catalogue of the Copper and Base Metallic Currency issued in the several States of the United States, commencing in 1862, and ending in 1864." This list of "Copperheads," as it was called, was the first of the long series of similar descriptive articles for which the *Journal* has been noted for nearly half a century, and which have been received with marked approval, at home and abroad. Dr. Lewis's valedictory was completed in the July number, and a brief but excellent paper by Mr. Robert Hewitt, Jr., on American coins, and reports, were the principal features of the issue. Of the remaining numbers of the volume, it is enough to say that they showed no falling off; the usual reports of the proceedings of the various numismatic societies, Notes and Queries with their answers, and descriptive papers made up the contents.

As the year came to a close the Publishing Committee were obliged to report that the financial success of the *Journal* had not met their expectations, but it was decided to continue the publication, and the committee were authorized to increase the number of pages to sixteen, should they deem it expedient. In November of that year Prof. Charles E. Anthon was proposed for membership in the Society, and joined it at the next meeting. Prof. Anthon was the fortunate possessor of a fine cabinet of coins, and his familiarity with their history, his scholarly training, and his active interest in the science, brought new strength to the Society and to the *Journal*. He was at once appointed one of the editors of the second volume, having as his associates Dr. Perine and Mr. E. Y. Ten Eyck. Great improvements in the make-up ensued; the "double-column" plan was given up, and the general style which has since been followed was adopted. Better paper was used, and a far more attractive magazine from a typographic point of view was the result. The contributions from Prof. Anthon, Mr. Edward Cogan, Mr. Joseph J. Mickley and Mr. A. B. Sage, in this and the next two volumes, proved that there was no lack of interesting material to be obtained.

Prof. Anthon and Mr. Levick were the Publishing Committee for the third, and the same gentlemen, with Mr. Isaac F. Wood, conducted the fourth volume, most of the editorial work being done by Prof. Anthon. There were but few illustrations in these early volumes, but two or three photographic plates taken from original pieces, which were given, are worthy of special note. Other duties requiring the attention of Prof. Anthon, he found it impossible to give the magazine the care and attention which he felt was needful to insure its success, and the April number, which closed the fourth volume, contained the valedictory of the committee, and announced that thereafter the publication would be continued by the Boston Numismatic Society.

Beginning with the fifth volume the periodical became a quarterly, containing the same number of pages as its predecessors, and the price was reduced to two dollars. A Publication Committee consisting of Mr. Jeremiah Colburn, who had succeeded Dr. Lewis as President of the Boston Society, Mr. William S. Appleton, the Secretary, and Dr. Samuel A. Green, then Vice-president and now the President, was appointed. Some time later (in 1887) the present senior editor was added to the committee. The American Society pledged its aid at the beginning, and a cordial co-operation between the two societies has always existed. Mr. Appleton, like Prof. Anthon, had a superb cabinet, especially rich in early American coins and medals, in ancient coins, curious medieval issues, German Thalers, etc., and had for many years been a careful and enthusiastic student. He was ever ready to answer inquiries, and exhibitions of the choice examples of rare and valuable pieces from his collection gave zest to the meetings of the society, and valuable aid to the editors.

Mr. Colburn's extensive acquaintance with collectors in various parts of the country enabled him to enlist their aid in furnishing papers. Older subscribers will recall the articles contributed by Mr. W. E. DuBois, of the United States Mint in Philadelphia; Gen. Thruston, of Nashville; Mr. William Tasker Nugent, of Savannah; Mr. R. A. Brock, of Richmond; Dr. Robert Morris, of Lexington, Kentucky, on the Coins of the Grand Masters of Malta; Mr. H.

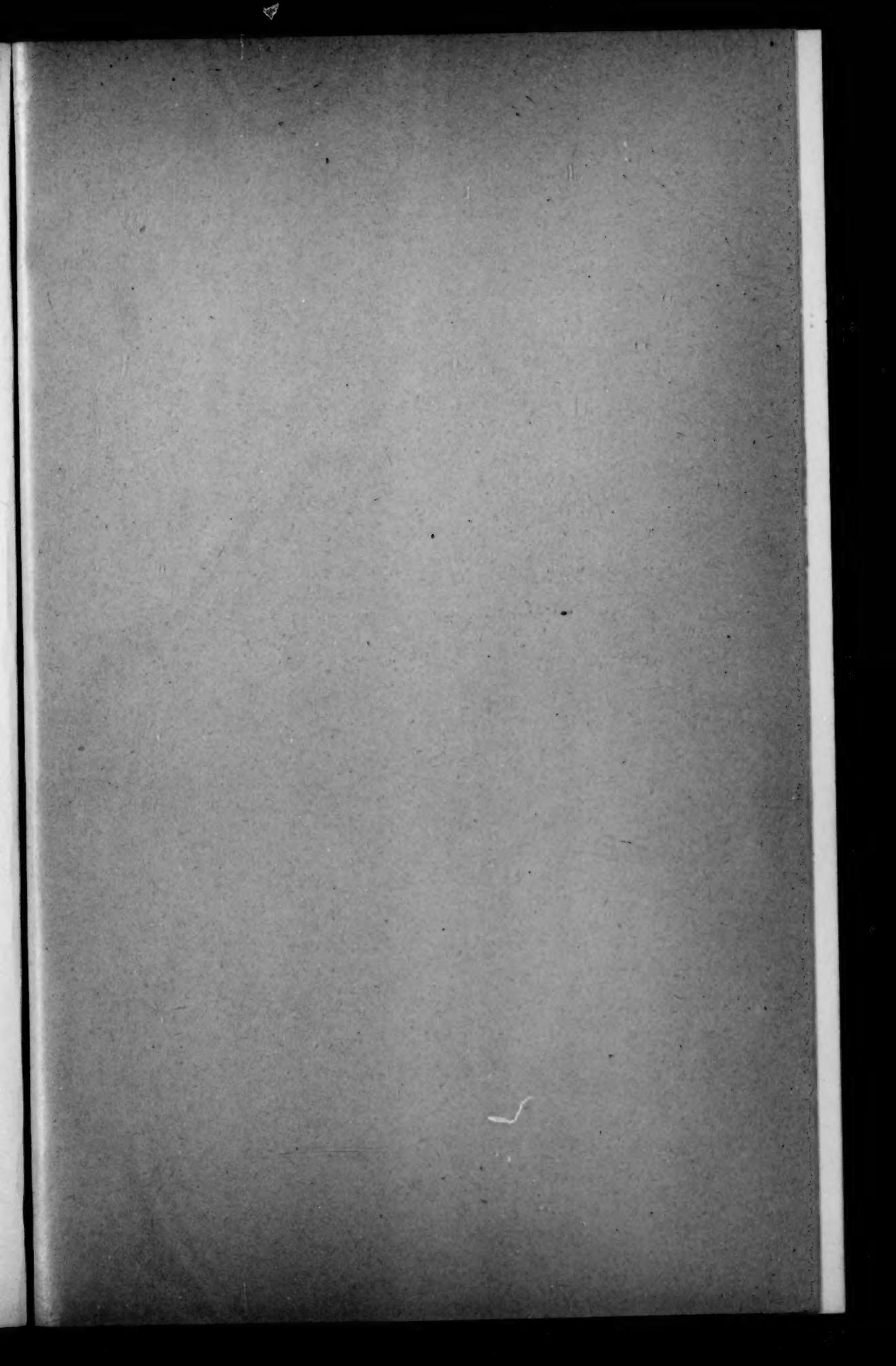
W. Holland, of Boston, on Centennial medals; Mr. J. Carson Brevoort, of Brooklyn, N. Y., on Early Spanish-American coins; Mr. A. C. Zabriskie, of New York, on Lincoln medals; Dr. Slafter on the Coinage of Sir William Alexander and the early copper pieces struck in Vermont and Northern New York, in the "Continental" period; Mr. R. W. MacLachlan, on Canadian issues; Hon. George M. Parsons, on the Franco-American jetons and medals, and the pieces issued during the French Revolution; Mr. H. C. Bolton, on Alchemists' medals; Mr. Appleton's exhaustive list of the coins of the United States Mint, the Washington, Franklin and other American medals; Mr. Thomas Warner, of Cohocton, New York, on Communion tokens; Mr. S. S. Crosby, on Colonials and the early issues of the United States Mint; Mr. Benjamin Betts on Spanish-American Proclamation pieces and the Imperial medals of Mexico; Mr. David L. Walter, on the medals of Comets, and others which we are sure will be readily recalled. In 1891 the health of Mr. Colburn obliged him to relinquish further active interest in the *Journal*, and Mr. Marvin assumed the charge, in which he has had the assistance of Mr. Low, as the representative of the American Society.

The articles of more than ordinary importance which have been given to the readers of the *Journal* under its present editors, we can only mention in a general way: the sudden and untimely death of Mr. Frank Sherman Benson, so sincerely regretted by all, brought to an abrupt conclusion his charming descriptions of the master-pieces of Greek art, shown on the Syracusan coinage. To Dr. Olcott, of Columbia University, we have been much indebted for his Notes on Undescribed Varieties of Roman Coins; from friends abroad—Dr. Weber of England, M. J. Adrien Blanchet of Paris, M. Alphonse DeWitte of Brussels, and M. Jean Svoronos of Athens, we have received sympathy and valuable aid. The interesting papers by M. Svoronos, on Star-types on Ancient Coins, and on "Britomartis," which he very kindly allowed us to translate for our pages, and other translations made expressly for the *Journal*, for example those on "How the Ancients engraved their Coin-dies," the curious "Judas Pennies," and other medieval pieces around which cluster some very singular traditions, have brought pleasant letters of appreciation. To more recent articles reference is needless.

Compared with the opportunities of numismatists abroad, American students have a limited field. There are no hoards of ancient Roman coins to be exhumed and identified; our colonial and national coinage had too recent an origin to require very exacting study; the heraldic devices and the portraits of the changing rulers which give so much fascination to the study of the coins of Great Britain and the Continental powers, find here no parallel; the various treatments of the head of Liberty, the cap she wears, the attitude of the eagle, or the number of berries in the olive wreaths on United States coins, do not specially appeal to advanced collectors. Such have naturally turned to the coins of the old world, and have been forced to traverse well-trodden fields, where there remains but little to be gleaned. For this reason the *Journal* has for many years given special attention to American medals, but without neglecting those contributions to the science which the scholars who conduct its sister periodicals are constantly making.

With the present number, those who for so long a period have sustained and conducted it, cease to control it. To the new owners we commit the magazine with the earnest hope for its continued prosperity, a greater interest in its objects, and a strong support; this we cannot doubt it will receive under the administration of the present officers of the American Numismatic Society, and the zeal of the greatly enlarged membership which that body to-day enjoys. For the present, the senior editor will remain in that position; he will be assisted by a publishing committee of the American Society, of which Messrs. Daniel Parish, Jr., Lyman H. Low, and Bauman L. Belden, will be the members. Their plans will probably be announced in the next number. To those whose cordial support has so long sustained the *Journal* our grateful thanks are tendered.

M.



A. M.

**Contributions from those interested in the science
will be cordially welcomed, and the largest possible
liberty granted to correspondents; but the publication
of such articles in the Journal cannot be held to be an
endorsement by the Editors of the views expressed.**

